



Tempe Public Art



Aaron Hussey

Salt River Valley Vision, 2010

Cor-ten steel and
cast silicon bronze

Location:

Double Butte Cemetery
2505 W. Broadway Road

Artist Website:

www.APHStudio.com

Description: *Salt River Valley Vision* was created for Tempe's historic Double Butte Cemetery, which dates to the 1800s and includes the gravesites of individuals who shaped the modern city and state of Arizona. The site also has a more ancient history of a Hohokam presence, with one of their prehistoric irrigation canals having passed through the property. In the center and at the bottom of the space is a reflective symbol for water that represents the Salt River. Abstracted rock formations of Cor-ten steel rise from the base in a circular direction, transforming into two halves of a Spanish mission style archway. The rock formations and two half arches represent the double buttes that overlook Tempe. From some viewing positions, the arches will appear as a single structure paying homage to the region's Spanish architectural and cultural history. The arch structures are designed as I-beam type components to recognize modern architectural methods of construction and the present-day people. Two cast bronze bells that take the form of the saguaro flower rest inside the window openings on each half arch. *Salt River Valley Vision* merges organic and architectural imagery drawn from the local environment to highlight the links between the built environment and the natural world. With its engaging visual and auditory elements, the work offers inspiration and invites reflection for visitors to the Memorial Garden.

Artist biography: Aaron Hussey lives in Louisiana. He has a Master's of Fine Arts (MFA) in Sculpture from Louisiana State University, a Master's of Arts (MA) with an emphasis in Sculpture from University of Arkansas, and a Bachelor's of Art from the University of Arkansas.

Funding: The project was funded through City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund.